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Department of State, A/GIS/IPS/SRP

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ROUTINE BUENOS AIRES

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E.O. 11652: GDS 6/14/85 DERIAN, PATRICIA M.]

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

REF: {A} BUENOS AIRES 4415  
{B} BUENOS AIRES 4520

FOR AMBASSADOR CASTRO AND DCM CHAPLIN FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN

1. AFTER TWO YEARS AND FIVE MONTHS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, IT IS DEPRESSING TO FIND A POST WHICH BELIEVES THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS NOT WORKING IN ITS HOST COUNTRY BECAUSE WITHHOLDING MILITARY TRANSACTIONS HASN'T MADE THE HOST GOVERNMENT CHANGE ITS POLICIES. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF "DIRECT LEVERAGE", IT IS A MATTER OF LAW, SECTION 620B OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1977 WHICH PROHIBITS SALES TO ARGENTINA SPECIFICALLY, AND IT IS A MATTER OF DISASSOCIATING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES FROM REPUGNANT POLICIES OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH HOLDS PEOPLE WITHOUT ACCOUNTING FOR THEM, WHICH TORTURES, WHICH DEPRIVES ITS CITIZENS OF THE VERY PROTECTIONS INCLUDED IN ITS OWN CONSTITUTION. IT IS A MATTER OF ADHERING TO OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION TO UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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IT ALSO IS A MATTER OF CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 502B OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WHICH MANDATES US TO AVOID IDENTIFICATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.

2. THE SOVIET SPECTRE RAISED IN REFTEL 4415, PARA 2 HAS BEEN RAISED FOR TWO YEARS. GIVEN THE TRADE SURPLUS, IT IS INEVITABLE THAT THEY WILL BUY SOMETHING. CERTAINLY NONE OF US THOUGHT THAT WEAPONS WERE UNOBTAINABLE ELSEWHERE. THE HISTORY OF OTHER GOVERNMENT'S PURCHASES AND EXPERIENCES WITH SOVIET EQUIPMENT TO DATE SHOULD LOWER OUR CONCERN ABOUT LONG-TERM LIAISONS BASED ON MILITARY SUPPLIES.

3. AS TO THE ECONOMIC EFFECT OF THE TERMINATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE SUPPLY SUPPORTING DATA TO BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ASSERTION. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN YOUR ECONOMISTS' STUDY. IT IS DIRECTLY AT ODDS WITH A WORLDWIDE STUDY OF THE SAME QUESTION COMPLETED BY AN INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE RECENTLY.

4. FAIL TO SEE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARGENTINE NAVY'S NONPARTICIPATION IN UNITAS EXERCISE. PLEASE EXPAND.

5. AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE BILATERAL MILITARY OFFICERS RESIDENT AND VISITING ARE CORRECTLY AND NOT EFFUSIVELY RECEIVED. NOTHING COULD BE LESS FITTING THAN AN APPEARANCE OF USG MILITARY OFFICERS IN EFFUSIVE OR MORE THAN CORRECT ASSOCIATION GIVEN THE FACT OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUED, DELIBERATE AND TRAGIC VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED BY THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF U.S. MAAG AND FEEL REASSURED THAT THE ASSOCIATION IS COOL AND FORMAL.

6. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA MAY MAINTAIN ITS VIEW THAT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS ARE ITS OWN INTERNAL BUSINESS JUST AS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MAY CHOOSE AND HAS CHOSEN TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THEIR PRACTICES.

7. THE FACT THAT EFFECT OF THE MILITARY BAN IS KNOWN TO AND HAS EFFECT ON "THOSE WHO DIRECTLY DEAL WITH QUESTIONS OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT AND TRAINING" SEEMS TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE IN THE RIGHT PLACE SINCE THEY ARE THE PEOPLE WHO RUN THE COUNTRY.

8. REFTEL 4415, PARA 9 ASSERTS, WE THINK CORRECTLY, THAT ALL OF THE ACTIONS OF USG "HAVE A POWERFUL CUMULATIVE EFFECT ON US-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS". WE BELIEVE ADDITIONALLY THAT A DRAMATIC SHIFT IN THESE ACTIONS WOULD

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GIVE THE WRONG SIGNAL AND DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE NO LONGER PURSUING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

9. AS TO REFTEL 4520, "POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF OUR HUMAN RIGHTS ECONOMIC POLICY", YOU SAY YOUR EMBASSY GOAL WAS A BILLION DOLLARS IN U.S. EXPORTS; YET YOU SHOW A 15 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE YEAR AND A 300 MILLION DOLLAR SURPLUS. IS THERE A COMPLAINT HERE? IN THE MATTER OF EXPLANATION OF OUR MDB VOTES AND EXIM ACTIONS AND THE UN-AWARENESS OF THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC, PERHAPS THE EMBASSY MIGHT WANT TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE OUR ACTIONS KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD BY A WIDER PUBLIC.

10. THE PAIR OF CABLES IS TROUBLING. HAVE WE READ YOUR MESSAGE CORRECTLY? ARE YOU SAYING THE ARGENTINE MILITARY WOULD BE FRIENDLIER TO OUR RESIDENT AND VISITING MILITARY IF WE COULD IGNORE HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS? OUR EXPORTS WERE 842 MILLION DOLLARS. OUR TRADE SURPLUS APPROACHES 300 MILLION DOLLARS. US BUSINESS WITH A COUNTRY RACKED BY ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IS BOOMING. YET THIS IS A COUNTRY HELD IN THE THRALL OF A REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT WHOSE LABOR LEADERS ARE IMPRISONED AND HARASSED, WHOSE JOURNALISTS PRACTICE THEIR PROFESSION IN FEAR OF THEIR LIVES, WHOSE MOTHERS MUST DEMONSTRATE TO FIND OUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS DONE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, WHOSE PRISONERS ARE TORTURED AND OFTEN KILLED. YOUR MESSAGES SUGGEST THAT DESPITE ALL THIS WE SHOULD ABANDON OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN ORDER TO PUSH OUR TRADE FIGURES EVEN HIGHER AND ENSURE THAT VISITING US BRASS GET A WARMER WELCOME FROM THE JUNTA.

11. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CABLE OUTLINING EMBASSY'S HUMAN RIGHTS GOALS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING THEM.

12. I WAS SORELY TEMPTED TO GIVE THIS MESSAGE SAME BROADCAST DISTRIBUTION GIVEN REFTELS BUT DO NOT FEEL THIS WOULD BE PROPER. THE CABLES ARE SO CLEARLY EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY JOURNALISM THAT I THINK OTHER ADDRESSEES WILL RECOGNIZE THEM AS SUCH AND ACCORD THEM THE CONSIDERATION THEY DESERVE. SHOULD YOU WISH TO SHARE FULL TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE WITH ADDRESSEES, HOWEVER, I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

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OPTIONAL FORM 105 (OCR) (10-72)  
Formerly DS 322 (OCR)  
Dept. of State

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Argentina - Aug 9 Testimony